BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801 (775) 753-0200

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CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE

The holiday season is here and it's time once for that traditional family event, cutting a live Christmas tree. Trees are a renewable resource; cutting one down simply provides more growing space for other trees. Once the holiday season has ended, your Christmas tree can be recycled into mulch which may then be used for various projects around our community. Currently both the Elko and Wells communities have recycle programs established for Christmas trees.

Christmas tree tags are available now from both your local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service Offices. BLM tree permits are \$3.00 each with a limit of five per family and Forest Service permits are \$5.00 each, also with a limit of five per family. Permits for tree cutting on BLM administered lands can be purchased at the Elko BLM Office, 3900 Idaho Street, during regular office hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Permits may also be obtained by mail from the BLM, Elko BLM Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801 before December 11th. Mail-in requests should include a check or money order payable to the Department of Interior-BLM, a return address, and the name and address of each person requesting a tree.

Additionally, BLM tree permits are available at the Wendover Port of Entry, open 24 hours; at the Montello Post Office, during regular business hours; and at the Wells Forest Service Office, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Pinyon pine and Utah juniper are the only trees that can be cut on BLM administered lands. BLM areas recommended for tree hunters are Spruce Mountain, east of Ruby Valley; Cherry Creek Range, west of Currie; the Leach Mountains, west of Montello; Dolly Varden Mountain, northeast of Currie; Pequop Mountains and Wood Hills, both east of Wells; Pilot Range, north of Wendover; and Sugar Loaf Peak, south of the Goshute Mountains. The Sulpher Spring Range beginning at the Mineral Hill area and going North, is <u>not</u> recommended due to the fires which burned a large portion of the forest in that area.

Permits for cutting trees on lands administered by the Forest Service can be obtained in Elko at the Forest Service Office located at 2035 Last Chance Road. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Forest Service also encourages individuals to obtain their permits by mail as long as a check or money order is included, made out to USDA Forest Service.

Forest Service permits are also available at Forest Service Offices in Mountain City and Wells, Nevada. Tags may also be purchased in Mountain City at Reads store. People who buy a permit can get directions to cutting areas at the issuing office.

Permits issued by the Forest Service allow the cutting of pinyon pine or juniper in the Ruby Mountains south of Harrison Pass and on the south end of the East Humboldt range in the Outhouse Draw or Arizona Springs cutting units; Sub-alpine fir or juniper in the Independence mountains, north of Elko; or Sub-alpine fir in the Jarbidge area also north of Elko.

Both agencies advise tree cutters to plan ahead. Cold weather combined with snow can make travel into the mountains dangerous. Emergency equipment and supplies such as chains, snow tires, a first aid kit, blankets, and extra food and water are recommended. Always tell someone where you are going and an expected return time. Have a safe outing.